

VIA: AIR  
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. SGAA-13562

**SECRET**  
CLASSIFICATION

JAN 12 1955

TO : Chief, SE

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Attn: C

FROM : C

SUBJECT: GENERAL— OBHUNT/FRIDAY

SPECIFIC— FRIDAY Mission Debriefing for Trip 21-22 December 1954

Action Requested: None. For Headquarters' information and files.

Synopsis:

- RNDOLLAR and AIRBLOWN infiltrated Albania on the evening of 21 December 1954.
- FRIDAY Team reached dead drop area safely but found nothing.
- Team exfiltrated in early morning hours of 22 December 1954.

Discussion of Debriefing:

1. Submitted herewith is the debriefing of FRIDAY Team, the infiltration-exfiltration period being recounted chronologically. Please note that RNDOLLAR and AIRBLOWN were debriefed separately and alternatively by C and C. These debriefings were carried out at the "Dig" safehouse on 23 December 1954. Because RNDOLLAR's story is more complete as to details and times, his debriefing is being presented in the enclosure. Any discrepancies between his version and that of AIRBLOWN will be footnoted.

2. Two points have arisen as a result of the debriefing itself which we believe are particularly noteworthy. In the first place, there appears to be some confusion concerning the dead drop mechanics and danger/safety signals to be employed. It will be recalled that RNDOLLAR and AIRPIGEON selected a dead drop location jointly. RNDOLLAR established danger/safety signals, instructed the PA to place the container in the dead drop as soon as possible and to check the dead drop signal as often as possible for incoming messages (enclosure No. 1 to SGAA 11239, KAPOK 2775, 14 August 1954, page 4, para 20). RNDOLLAR stated in the debriefing of the July 1954 mission that the PA had promised to enplace the container within 24 hours. AIRBLOWN, on the other hand, understood from RNDOLLAR that if two stones at the danger/safety signals location were together, the container would be present, if they were separated from each other, the container would not be present. This conflict is of course important enough to warrant further exploration, and Headquarters will be informed of results.

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CS Classification: *none*

JOB # *63-697118*

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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
per *CSM* CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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3. The second point involves a revelation of RNDOLLAR deserving closer study. He stated to [ ] in the debriefing that he, RNDOLLAR, had set up a rendezvous with AIPIGEON for 25 May 1955. This would take place at Qaf e Hanit between the hours 2200- 2330. RNDOLLAR had failed to inform his case officer of this fact prior to this date.

4. AIRBLOWN's comments to [ ] and [ ] may also be of interest. He indicated that he believed the operational plan was very good. However, he felt that the dead drop location was a poor one for a number of reasons, namely:

- a. The area was muddy and therefore held footprints.
- b. Its location between two roads lacked sufficient cover.
- c. The danger/safety signal was in close proximity to the highway and therefore hazardous.

AIRBLOWN had favorable comments about RNDOLLAR's deportment but added that he is of a somewhat excitable nature. (We have recorded AIRBLOWN's comments here as he is a mature and intelligent person who has received a substantial amount of training from us.)

5. It must be pointed out that RNDOLLAR and AIRBLOWN gave a similar account of the operation, and the discrepancies seen few and minor. Such discrepancies as do exist may be at least partially explained by AIRBLOWN's inexperience and resulting nervousness. We feel that another factor tends to confirm the veracity of RNDOLLAR's story. AIRBLOWN has no known loyalty to RNDOLLAR of a sort that would lead him to fabricate in order to protect his leader. On the contrary, he has given many indications of a first loyalty to his case officers during his three years of service.

6. In addition to the questions generated by the debriefing which we discussed above, developments of the FRIDAY Mission to date provide space for conjecture. Some possibilities for our failure to develop the mission according to plan are immediately apparent; they are:

- a. AIPIGEON may have had such strong reservations about accepting his assignment, that, in the final analysis, he decided against doing his part. For example, he may have committed himself in an indefinite manner to save face, being fully aware that, upon RNDOLLAR's departure, he would not carry out the instructions. It is also quite feasible that AIPIGEON lost heart after RNDOLLAR's exfiltration.

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b. RNDOLLAR may have misrepresented AIPIGEON's reaction to the recruitment approach in order to preserve the family honor.

c. AIPIGEON may have been captured or killed.

d. An additional possibility, advanced by RNDOLLAR, is that AIPIGEON, not anticipating that the team would service the dead drop in the winter months, retrieved the dead drop container for fear of its being discovered by roaming shepherds. This would only be possible if RNDOLLAR did not brief AIPIGEON properly or if AIPIGEON disobeyed instructions to leave the container at the dead drop location at all times per Attach C to SGAA 10427, KAPOK 2661, 16 June 1954, page 3.

7. It is the opinion of this desk that the team comported itself well during this penetration. Neither RNDOLLAR nor AIRBLOWN deviated from any of the specific instructions which they received in the briefing; this, in itself, was gratifying. We were particularly pleased with the manner in which AIRBLOWN rose to the occasion without question or hesitation. He has earned himself a great deal of respect.

8. That our effort failed is, of course, a great disappointment to all involved. In retrospect, it seems that we would have been wise to LOFLUTTER RNDOLLAR after his July penetration in an effort to confirm the accuracy of his debriefing. Our decision not to use this check at the time was based largely on his inconclusive reactions to his first test. Before making our final recommendations on the future of this mission, however, we plan to LOFLUTTER RNDOLLAR on his activities to date. The results of this test plus our recommendations on the operation will be forwarded as soon as possible.

Attachment:  
Memo on Debriefing

RMW/RSD  
RMW/RSD/JLK/nkr

10 January 1955

Distribution:

- 3 - Wash w/att in trip.
- 1 - Chrono w/att
- 1 - XO w/att
- 2 - CBOPUS w/att in dupl. (1 ret.)

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29 December 1954

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per CSN 43-4

To: [ ]

From: [ ]

Subject: Debriefing of FRIDAY Team Penetration of 21-22 December 1954

There follows an account of developments during Subject penetration:

December 21:

- 1750: Final instructions on the border conditions were given to the team. A few minutes prior to their separation from the conducting detail RNDOLLAR asked [ ] what he should do in case he did not find the container at the dead drop. [ ] answered that in such a case RNDOLLAR should not place the new one there.
- 1750- Upon separation from the conducting detail, the team followed the mule path  
1835 for approximately 20 minutes and subsequently turned right crossing the border at point R 406546, when crossing the border line RNDOLLAR noticed something resembling the glowing of a cigarette. He immediately brought this to AIRBLOWN's attention who agreed that what they saw must have been a light. Although the team had anticipated to cross the frontier line a little further up, the leader preferred to make an abrupt right and cross a little depression, thus avoiding any contact with persons near the point of the light.<sup>2</sup>
- 1835- The team covered the space between the frontier line and the thorn fence in  
1915 about 30 minutes. The fence was crossed at point R 405549 and RNDOLLAR stated that the team had no difficulty crossing it. It is his opinion that in all probabilities it was burnt down by the local shepherds who set the grass on fire for fertilizing purposes. A row of rocks and some thorns are still remaining.<sup>3</sup>
- 1915- After crossing the remnants of the fence the team proceeded along gently  
1945 inclined ground in a northerly direction towards the plain of Konispol. The team left the deserted guard post of Skemon (Skembi) approximately 100 m to the left.<sup>4</sup>

1. AIRBLOWN indicated the crossing point at R 407545.
2. It should be noted that Greek and Albanian shepherds had been observed in that area during the day.
3. AIRBLOWN made no allusion to the fence.
4. AIRBLOWN, during his interrogation, made greater emphasis regarding dog-barking while crossing the border.

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1945- The team marched across sloping country devoid of thick brush or special  
2030 landmarks and crossed a stream bed at point approximately R 409561.  
After the team had climbed the NE side of the stream and a dog started barking.<sup>5</sup> Suddenly and simultaneously a voice was heard from a distance of about 80 m calling twice, "Halt! Halt!" The voice was weak and of no commanding tone. The team turned back on RNDOLLAR's order and hid in the stream bed. The voice of the man was faintly heard talking to the dog which seemed to be retreating. (RNDOLLAR heard something like na, na, in Albanian, equivalent to come on.) The team proceeded to the NW along the stream bed for approximately 200 m. Ten minutes after the first dog had started barking RNDOLLAR heard some more barking and another voice coming from the same direction encouraging the dog with something like Oha! Oha'. (sic).<sup>6</sup>

2030- The team left the river bed and proceeded towards the hill Qafe Hanit  
2100 (R 411573) where it approached the Bajario (sic) up to a distance of 50 m.<sup>7</sup>  
At point R 407571 near a tomb AIRBLOWN asked for some water but RNDOLLAR did not stop. The team, on arrival at a distance of approximately 200 m from the main highway, halted for approximately 15-20 minutes and watched the road for any movement.<sup>8</sup>

2120 After the rest the team walked towards the highway and reached it at a point  
RNDOLLAR 30 m from the Bajario. Some dogs were barking west of the buildings but  
checked the other than that the team heard or saw nothing. RNDOLLAR intended to show  
time) AIRBLOWN a few prominent and unmistakable land-marks to be used in the proper identification of the dead drop. This is how he explains his somewhat daring approach to the Bajario. The team walked on a mule path parallel to the highway for a distance of 50-60 meters.<sup>9</sup>

2130 The team reached the location of the dead drop signal (R 415569) which was to be found in the direct proximity of a telephone pole, distinguished from the others because of certain wire-cords attached to it. At the designated spot the team found the dead drop signal (see former briefings).<sup>10</sup> The two stones were lying alongside, approximately one meter apart from each other, and both at a distance of one meter from the pole.

5. RNDOLLAR on his interrogation by Raybould stated that there were 2 dogs barking.
6. AIRBLOWN does not mention the second voice.
7. AIRBLOWN does not make any allusion to the Bajario (the Bajario known to RNDOLLAR as Baxho is a spot where the milk of various sheep of the area is processed. There is a spring of water nearby.)
8. AIRBLOWN did not mention this rest period.
9. (on page 3)
10. (on page 3)

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Although the team found the danger signal on, RNDOLLAR told his team member that they would proceed to the dead drop to look for mail, regardless of the signal. The team proceeded immediately to the bush dead drop (in Albanian the bush is known by the name of Gorric).<sup>11</sup> RNDOLLAR indicated one bush stating that it was the one selected by him, in the PA's presence. The fact that a subsequent search by the two team members yielded nothing, did not deter RNDOLLAR who resumed his search in 4 other similar bushes in case AIPICEON had made a mistake.<sup>12</sup> Subsequently, the team walked for about 45-50 m on the path along the Konispol highway in order that AIRBLOWN could be familiarized with the entire area.

2215<sup>13</sup>

(RNDOLLAR  
checked  
the time)

Accordingly, the team returned to the point 30m east of the Bajario and from there changed its direction towards the Greek border.

9. AIRBLOWN states that the team reached the mule path at R 408572 and then switched their course to the east, following at times the mule track. During this time RNDOLLAR counted three telephone poles. The team halted near the third pole.
10. AIRBLOWN stated that prior to reaching the safety signal RNDOLLAR informed him that they were in the process of examining the danger signal. As AIRBLOWN was made to understand it, the safety signal was on that denoted that "the container would be in the dead drop" otherwise it would not be there at all.
11. AIRBLOWN referred to the bush in Albanian as driz or moriz.
12. The location of the dead drop differs slightly in the two interrogations. RNDOLLAR claims the distance between the signal and the dead drop is approximately 25 m. AIRBLOWN, on the other hand, places the bushes at a distance of 4 to 10 m from the telephone pole.
13. Although AIRBLOWN was not in a position to check the time he declared that the search of the dead drop took place around 2315 - 2335 hours.

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- 2230 Around point R 407572<sup>14</sup> the team halted for approximately 15 minutes. REDOLLAR had the occasion to indicate to AIRBLOWN various prominent landmarks of the area, among which a piece of land, formerly belonging to his family. On its return, the team heard dogs barking from Barniko and Cuk Aitojt. The team left the deserted guardpost of Skemon approximately 60 m to the right.<sup>15</sup> The border line was approached 100-150 m NW of the infiltration point.
- 0100 Right on the border line and a few minutes prior to entering the Greek territory REDOLLAR heard the noise of rolling stones and cracking branches. He immediately drew AIRBLOWN's attention who thought that the noise might have been caused by a stray animal. REDOLLAR ordered a very cautious approach to the border.<sup>16</sup>
- 0130 After a very slow march the team crossed the border at point R 404545.

14. R 407563, according to AIRBLOWN.

15. AIRBLOWN claims that the team made another 10' halt approximately 150 meters from the border line.

16. Wild boar frequent the area in herds.

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